

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1988

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14510

FOLLOWING TEL SENT NEW DELHI INFO DACCA AND HONG KONG FROM
CALCUTTA OCT 31, 1975, REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 2581

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, CH, BG, IN

SUBJ: GENERAL JACOB ON BANGLADESH, CHINA AND THE NORTHEAST

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL JACOB (COMMANDER OF INDIAN
ARMY'S EASTERN REGION) AT DINNER AT MY RESIDENCE OCTOBER 30,
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS MENTIONED CONCERN HDEHAD FOUND
DURING HIS VISIT TO BANGLADESH OVER POSSIBILITY OF INDIAN MILI-
TARY INTERVENTION. JACOB REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INTEREST IN

BECOMING INVOLVED IN BANGLADESH'S GARGANTUAN PROBLEMS AND AS
FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED "THE PLACE CAN SINK". IN ANY EVENT
HE WAS NOT IN POSITION TO INTERVENE AS, HE SAID, HE HAD ONLY
THREE BATALLIONS IN PROXIMITY TO THE BANGLADESH BORDER, TWO
IN WEST BENGAL AND A THIRD IN THE TRIPURA AREA. JACOB INDICATED
THAT HIS MAIN CONCERN IS THE CHINESE BORDER. HE SAID HE WAS
WELL AWARE OF BANGLADESH ARMY FEARS OF INDIAN INTERVENTION AS
HE WAS READING THEIR TRAFFIC.

2. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH A CONGEN OFFICER, JACOB
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EXPRESSED A STRONG PERSONAL DISLIKE FOR THE CHINESE AND SAID

THERE HAD BEEN AN INCIDENT RECENTLY ALONG THE INDIAN-CHINESE BORDER IN WHICH THE CHINESE HAD "DONE SOMETHING TERRIBLE". CONGEN OFFICER TRIED TO DRAW JACOB OUT BUT HE WOULD GIVE NO DETAILS. HE DID HOWEVER ALLUDE TO AN ARTICLE IN THE LONDON TIMES IN LAST TWO WEEKS WHICH CONGEN OFFICER GATHERED MADE SOME MENTION OF THIS INCIDENT.

3. JACOB ALSO SAID THAT THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN SUPPORTING TRIBAL INSURGENCY IN THE NORTHEAST WITH GUNS AND TRAINING BUT THAT THE INDIAN ARMY HAD INTERCEPTED MOST OF THE INDIVIDUALS AND WEAPONS COMING FROM CHINA.
KORN UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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